

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Japanese Ministry Basing Court Case On Fabricated Victims

Knut Holdhus
March 13, 2024



Faith-breaker Takashi Miyamura, responsible for hundreds of deprogrammings based on abduction and forcible detention. In huge number of cases victims were FORCED to sue the [Unification Church](#)

At Tokyo District Court: Religious minority argues that Ministry has based its case on fabricated victims.

Part 2 of the English version of statement by President Tomihiro Tanaka, President of the [Family Federation](#) (FFWPU) of Japan, at the Tokyo District Court on 22nd February 2024. Published with permission.

See [part 1](#)



Tomihiro Tanaka, President of the [Family Federation](#) in Japan. Here at press conference 7th November 2023 in Tokyo

Next, I would like to discuss the unavoidable issues of deprogramming by means of abduction and confinement when addressing the issues of our [church](#). Organizations opposing our [church](#) have systematically and persistently engaged in egregious human rights violations, such as abduction, confinement, and forced de-conversion against our believers, with the aim of destroying our [church](#). According to our [church](#)'s records, over [4,300 believers](#) have suffered from such abuses. When a believer is abducted and confined, they are subjected to daily verbal abuse from those trying to force them to leave the [church](#), and they are not released from confinement even for years until they are acknowledged that they have truly lost their faith.

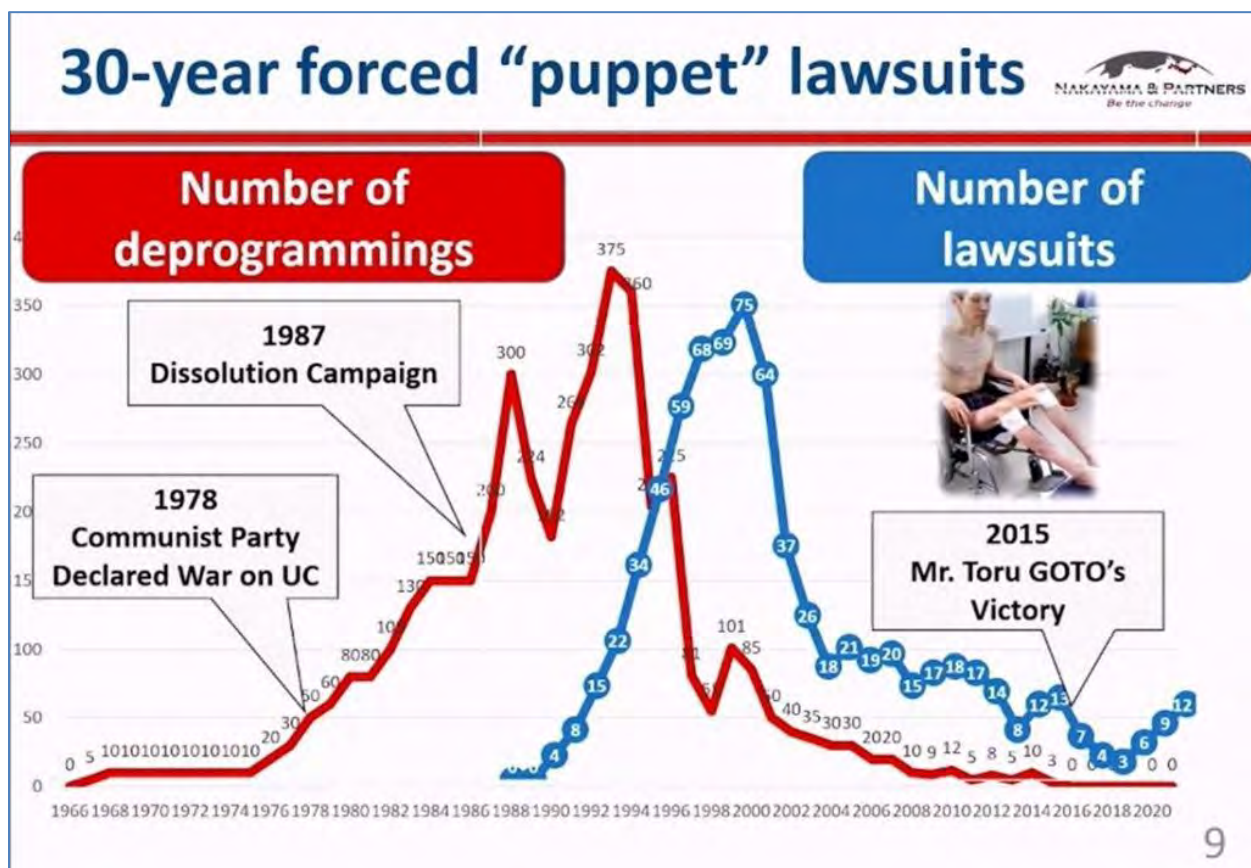
To be recognized as having lost one's faith, the confined believer must actively collaborate in abducting and confining other believers, engage in

opposition activities such as providing defamatory statements to the media and filing civil lawsuits against our [church](#). In this way, believers who originally led active and positive religious lives are transformed into apostates through abduction and confinement who vehemently oppose our [church](#). These former believers then sue our [church](#), make false statements in court to secure victories. When they win the cases, these results are reported in the media, then other believers' parents become concerned. This leads to a cycle of infinite repetition, with new believers being abducted and confined.

Additionally, there have been instances where former believers who had left the [church](#) urged women believers who had made donations to our [church](#) to seek repayment through lawsuits. As a result, multiple civil lawsuits have been filed against our [church](#). The number of abduction and confinement cases and the number of civil lawsuits against our [church](#) exhibit a similar pattern over time.

An increase in abduction and confinement cases is followed by a slight time lag, after which there is an increase in civil lawsuits. Similarly, a decrease in abduction and confinement cases is followed by a slight time lag, after which there is a decrease in civil lawsuits. Detailed information is available in the report

submitted by our [church](#) as Exhibit B7, and I recommend referring to it.



Strong proof of lawyers exploiting illegalities: correlation between number of deprogrammings and number of lawsuits. Illustration: Tatsuki Nakayama, lawyer



Professional deprogrammer Takashi Miyamura

Remarkably, Mr. Takashi Miyamura, a central figure among those orchestrating deprogramming, is said to have been planning to dissolve our [church](#) through abduction, confinement, and legal battles since the early 1990s.

	United Nations	CCPR/C/JPN/CO/6
	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	Distr.: General 20 August 2014 Original: English
Human Rights Committee		
Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Japan*		

From header of UN document with United Nations' recommendations to Japan on human rights of believers

In 2014, the United Nations Human Rights Committee issued recommendations urging the Japanese government to handle the issue of abduction and forced confinement appropriately.

Furthermore, in 2015, the Supreme Court decision was issued in a lawsuit filed by a believer who had suffered abduction, confinement, and coerced deconversion for 12 years against figures such as Mr. Takashi Miyamura, confirming a complete victory for the believer. Although the issue of abduction and confinement was largely resolved through this process, many former believers who had left the [church](#) due to abduction, confinement, and coerced deconversion sued our [church](#).



In nationwide lawsuits against our [church](#) by former believers, known as the "Return Our Youth", the majority of the 180 plaintiffs, in Sapporo, Niigata, Tokyo, and elsewhere, with only a few exceptions, were believers who had experienced abduction and confinement. Additionally, of the 22 civil judgments that MEXT [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology] relied on for the exercise of questioning rights, more than half of the plaintiffs, to the best of our knowledge, were victims of abduction and confinement. In

addition, MEXT submitted 257 written testimonies in the request for dissolution order in this case, but it was confirmed that approximately half of them are victims of abduction and confinement.

We highlighted the fact that opposing groups fabricated "victims" by engaging in illegal activities as abduction and confinement in the report submitted by our [church](#) to MEXT for responding to their exercise of questioning rights. However, MEXT [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology], in its first written statement, argues that there is no reasonable basis for our [church](#)'s claims regarding the issue of abduction and confinement. However, the aforementioned UN recommendation is based on the premise that Japan is in violation of international law. Therefore, if MEXT denies the fact of deprogramming by means of abduction and confinement itself, it is tantamount to an official declaration that the Japanese government has no intention of complying with international law, making it an extremely serious situation.

In Western countries, particularly among former members who become aggressive toward their former religious organizations are called "apostates", and research by scholars of religious sociology has shown that the discourse of apostates lacks credibility. However, such research findings were not available in Japan. Consequently, both the media and the courts have tended to lend an ear to the discourse of apostates. The excessive falsehoods in the discourse of apostates, and the fact that it should not be used as evidence in the dissolution request case, have already been clearly demonstrated in the written statement (2) submitted by our [church](#).

To be continued. Part 3 coming soon.

See [part 1](#)

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Part 1 of the English version of statement by President Tomihiro Tanaka, President of the Family Federation (FFWPU) of Japan, at the Tokyo District Court on 22nd February 2024. Published with permission.

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See [part 2](#)

In response to MEXT's [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology] recent request for a dissolution order, we have already addressed the legal issues in writing. Therefore, I would like to express my opinion from the perspective of a religious person.

To begin with, MEXT's claim that our **church** is not a religious group but rather an entity with a fundraising purpose is clearly erroneous.

The founders, Rev. [Sun Myung Moon](#) and Mrs. [Hak Ja Han Moon](#), established the former [Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity](#), now known as the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#), with the **aim of the salvation of all humanity**. The Japanese **church** was founded in 1959 and obtained religious corporation status in 1964. It was established as a part of the providence of world salvation by the founder couple, and **its purpose is strictly religious**.

Donations from our followers support domestic evangelism, international missionary activities, and the **church's** maintenance and development. Receiving **donations is also an integral part**



Receiving donations is integral part of religious activities. Here: Japanese banknotes. Photo: [Tokyoship / Wikimedia Commons](#). [Public domain](#) image

of religious activities. The **organization** is by no means formed with the sole purpose of fundraising.

The **acceptance of donations is a right recognized for religious corporations**, and the **claim that receiving donations implies non-religious purposes goes against international law** established by the "Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief", adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1981, which stipulates the **"freedom to solicit and receive contributions."**

While acknowledging that our **church** utilizes donations for religious activities, MEXT [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology] erroneously concludes that **FFWPU's** involvement in evangelism while keeping the **church** name undisclosed was solely for fundraising purposes. However, our **church** has **consistently conducted evangelism openly**, without concealing its identity.



Photo: [Tingey Injury Law Firm on Unsplash](#). Cropped

The [Nagoya District Court](#) judgment of April 22, 2014, found the fact that in 1972, our **church** openly engaged in evangelism as a form of religious solicitation and rejected the claims of the plaintiff in that case. The case in the [Tokyo District Court](#) judgment dated February 28, 2020, involved two plaintiffs who sued for activities of **FFWPU** after 2013, but when they began to

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learn the doctrine, they were aware that it was the doctrine of FFWPU.

Engaging in evangelism without explicitly indicating the name of the **church** was done by a nationwide believers' organization in the 1980's and, after its dissolution, by local believers' groups that continued its evangelism methods. While our **church** did not interfere with believers' voluntary activities, in 2009, when we issued a compliance declaration, we instructed that even in activities carried out by believers, the name of our **church** must be identified when they teach our doctrines. As a result, there have been no activities condemned as "hidden evangelism". Therefore, the **claim that our church engages in "hidden evangelism" and, therefore, has non-religious purposes does not apply to our church.**

The *Tokyo High Court* judgment dated December 26, 2017, submitted by MEXT [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology] as evidence, admitted that the **activities conducted by our church or its followers are religious in nature**. It explicitly states that there are no activities being conducted solely for the purpose of asset confiscation or the exploitation of labor. Therefore, there is no dispute regarding the fact that the activities of our **church** or its followers are conducted for religious purposes.

Continued in [part 2](#).

Featured image above: Tomihiro Tanaka, President of the [Family Federation](#) in Japan. Here at press conference 7th November 2023 in Tokyo. Photo: [FFWPU](#)

"*Donation and Evangelism Allegations Debunked*" – text: Tomihiro Tanaka

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